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**INTERNATIONAL
COURSE ON PLANNING
AND MANAGEMENT
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
PROGRAMMES**
(Short course)

*Stand-alone or as
an option for the
MPH-CM course*

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The high burden of HIV and other STI and the high rates of maternal mortality have put reproductive health at the top of the public health agenda. The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo put the discussion of “population control” in a broader development context, focusing on women’s rights and the provision of integrated “reproductive health services”.

The Institute is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for research, training and interventions in HIV/AIDS and other STI.

2. OBJECTIVES

The course is intended for health professionals and scientists involved in, or responsible for, reproductive health programmes, including HIV/STI, family planning or safe motherhood and draws on the unique expertise of the Institute and its collaborating centres. It combines in-depth knowledge of specific diseases with extensive experience in the organisation and evaluation of health services.

3. COURSE PROGRAMME

Students receive up-to-date training in specific reproductive health problems, as well as the necessary elements for the formulation, management and evaluation of control strategies. The focus is on the appraisal of the public health importance of reproductive health and the development of specific control methods, with an emphasis on integrated strategies and intersectoral collaboration.

The main themes covered include:

- HIV/AIDS
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Family planning and unsafe abortion
- Maternal health
- Project Cycle Management & Logical Framework

After completion of the course, participants will have learned how to:

- Assess the importance of the different aspects of reproductive health problems at national or more local level and critically appraise possible strategies in reproductive health
- Formulate and prioritise specific strategies related to reproductive health within the framework of the existing health system
- Implement those strategies within existing health structures, focusing accessibility, affordability and sustainability
- Monitor and evaluate reproductive health programmes
- To integrate the acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes to reproductive health problem-solving in their working context.

4. TEACHING METHODS

Teaching consists of interactive lectures, seminars, discussions and practical sessions. There is a strong emphasis on case studies and practical exercises involving participants in the design of control programmes appropriate to their country of origin. Small group sessions are a substantial part of the course.

ITM staff, all experienced specialists in their field, are the major contributors to the course. A number of internationally known experts from other academic institutions and international organisations will be invited to complement specific areas of expertise.

5. EVALUATION AND DIPLOMA

Individual progress, i.e. oral communication skills, participation in discussion and teamwork, is being assessed continuously. At the end of the course students present the results of their personal project in a poster format which is evaluated on content, methodology and format. Students receive a Certificate of the International Course on Planning and Management of Reproductive Health Programmes.

6. THE DURATION OF THE TRAINING

The course takes place at the Institute of Tropical Medicine and lasts 10 weeks from March until May.

7. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Holders of a university degree in health sciences or a professional bachelor in nursing sciences or midwifery can apply by duly completing the appropriate application form (available from MDC-MCM@itg.be or the ITM website www.itg.be), and send it to the course secretariat before 1 November. A selection committee will evaluate all applications on a comparative basis and notify candidates as soon as possible of the outcome.

Candidates should be proficient in epidemiology, statistics and public health. A Master of Public Health degree (MPH) or a similar training is an asset.

The course language is either French or English, alternating yearly. Please consult the overview table. A good knowledge of the course language, certified by an accredited test or equivalent is required. Participants in the French course are also expected to have a working knowledge of English.

8. ACCREDITATION

This course has been accredited as an advanced module within the tropEd Masters in International Health (MIH) with 12 ECTS credits.

9. TUITION FEE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

You will find information on the exact fee and scholarships in the general ITM course overview and on our website or you can contact the ITM Student Service at education@itg.be. Students from developing countries and the European Union are eligible for a scholarship through the ITM.

The registration fee should be transferred into the ITM's account nr. 220-0531111-72 (Fortis, Warandeberg 3, 1000 Brussel), BIC/SWIFT : GEBABEBB, IBAN BE 38 2200 5311 1172. Bank charges are at the applicant's expense.



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